

HEALTH
19 OCT 1945
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Eton Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Temporary Medical Officer of Health

J. W. WEBB,
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.)

For the Year 1945

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

A. W. G. CORNER,
M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Members of the Eton Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the report for the year 1945. I regret its late appearance, but the Vital Statistics were not received from the Ministry until 30th June. In view of the retirement of your late Medical Officer of Health, I have been obliged to restrict the report to essential matters.

SECTION A.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate, Mid-Year 1945) 38,150

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

Total	.....	659	Male	349	Female	310
Legitimate	.....	606	„	324	„	282
Illegitimate	.....	53	„	25	„	28
Birth rate per 1,000 population	.....		.....	.....	.....	17.2
National rate	.....		.....	.....	.....	16.1

Still Births.

Total	.....	16	Male	7	Female	9
Legitimate	.....	12	„	6	„	6
Illegitimate	.....	4	„	1	„	3
Still Birth rate per 1,000 population	.....		.....	.....	.....	0.42
National rate	.....		.....	.....	.....	0.46

Deaths.

Total	.....	413	Male	195	Female	218
Death rate per 1,000 population	.....		.....	.....	.....	10.8
National rate	.....		.....	.....	.....	11.4

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth:-

(a) From sepsis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
(b) From other causes	.....	.....	.....	.....	3

Death rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births:-

(a) From sepsis	.....	1.5	National rate	.....	0.57
(b) From other causes	.....	4.4	National rate	.....	1.22
(c) Total	.....	5.9	National rate	.....	1.79

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age.

Total	.....	16	Male	7	Female	9
Legitimate	.....	12	„	6	„	6
Illegitimate	.....	4	„	1	„	3

Death rate of Infants under One Year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	24.3
National rate	46.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages).

Male	0	Female	0	Total	0
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).

Male	0	Female	0	Total	0
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Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2).

Male	1	Female	1	Total	2
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Causes of Death.

	All Causes	Male 195	Female 218
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	—
6. Influenza	1	2	—
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	3	—
10. Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1	—	—
11. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	—
12. Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	31	53	—
14. Diabetes	—	2	—
15. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	18	22	—
16. Heart Diseases	52	58	—
17. Other Circulatory Diseases	7	10	—
18. Bronchitis	10	15	—
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	11	9	—
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	4	5	—
21. Duodenal and Gastric Ulcer	5	—	—
22. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	1	—
23. Appendicitis	1	—	—
24. Digestive Diseases	4	4	—
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	3	—
26. Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	—
27. Other Puerperal Causes	—	3	—
28. Premature Birth	1	2	—
29. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, and Infant Diseases	6	5	—
30. Road Traffic Accidents	5	2	—
31. Suicide	4	1	—
32. Other Violence	2	2	—
33. All Other Causes	15	15	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—SECTION B.

The following Tables show the total notified cases of Infectious Diseases during the past 8 years, the monthly incidence and incidence in the various parishes.

Table I.

	Total Noti- fied 1945	Admit. to Hosp.	Deaths	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	59	37	—	103	69	52	48	93	54	40	53
Diphtheria	4	4	—	4	4	3	7	22	11	19	7
Enteric Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	25†	—	1	15	26	16	9	2	5	7	7
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	10	1	—	23	30	4	15	19	5	13	14
Erysipelas	4	2	—	4	5	14	6	7	10	9	6
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4	4	2	3	1	6	6	10	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	5	5	—	—	1	2	18	8	—	—	2
Measles*	426	15	—	70	592	119	515	354	—	—	—
Whooping Cough*	36	7	—	153	71	55	192	16	6	—	—

* Notifiable from October 1939.

† 23 of these occurred at the Fulmer Chase Maternity Home and 1 at the Collinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common.

Table II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	5	4	13	5	4	6	2	—	3	3	3	11
Diphtheria	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	—	4	—	3	4
Pneumonia	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Erysipelas	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
Measles	30	51	121	83	63	62	11	4	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	7	5	2	1	7	4	3	2	—	—	—

Table III.

Showing Cases of Infectious Diseases occurring in each Parish in the Area.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough
Burnham	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	90	12
Datchet	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Denham	9	2	—	—	—	2	—	18	3
Dorney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Farnham	1	—	—	2*	2	—	—	24	—
Fulmer	3	—	—	23†	1	—	—	4	2
Gerrards Cross	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	61	3
Hedgerley	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Horton	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Iver	24	1	1	—	2	—	2	144	9
Stoke Poges	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	22	3
Taplow	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	4
Wexham	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Wraysbury	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	7	—
TOTAL	59	4	1	25	10	4	4	426	36

* One at Collinswood Maternity Home, Farnham Common.

† At Fulmer Chase Maternity Home, Fulmer.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Table showing New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Periods	NEW CASES from Notifications				DEATHS				NEW CASES from Death Returns			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	3	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	8	6	7	8	3	1	—	2	2	—	—

Death rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 population32

SECTION B.

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

A study of the Vital Statistics shows that the health of the district has remained good.

The birth rate of 17.2 per 1,000 is less than last year when it was 18.6, but the national rate has also fallen from 17.6 to 16.1. The decline in birth rate is therefore general.

The death rate has fallen from 11.9 to 10.8 and is thus below the national rate of 11.4. The rates for the past five years have been 11.9, 10.6, 10.6, 10.6, 12.1, from 1944 to 1940.

The infantile mortality rate reaches a new low level at 24.3 and is 19.7 below the national rate of 46, rates for 1944—1940 being 35.4, 40.6, 30.1, 42.9, 58.2.

The incidence of infectious disease per 1,000 population as compared with that of England and Wales is as follows:—

			Eton Rural District	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	1.19	1.89
Diphtheria	.....	.....	0.10	0.46
Typhoid Fever	.....	.....	0.002	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	.....	.....	0.0	0.01
Pneumonia	.....	.....	0.23	0.87
Erysipelas	.....	.....	0.10	0.28
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	.....	.....	0.10	0.05
Smallpox	.....	.....	0.00	0.00
Measles	.....	.....	11.16	11.67
Whooping Cough	.....	.....	0.94	1.64

It will be observed that the rate is lower than the national rate in all diseases except Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

4 cases of Diphtheria occurred compared with 5, 4, 3 and 7 in previous years. The cases were 1 adult, not immunised, two children of school age, one of whom was immunised and one not, and an infant not immunised who died of the complaint.

There were fewer cases of Scarlet Fever, 59 only being notified this year as against 103 last year. 37 were admitted into Hospital. There were no deaths.

An outbreak of Measles, of which 426 cases were notified, occurred and reached a peak in March. 15 cases were admitted into hospital. All recovered.

An outbreak of Sonne dysentery occurred at a Hammersmith Borough Council evacuee nursery in the district. Twenty cases were notified and admitted into hospital. All recovered.

5 cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified, 3 were admitted into Windsor Hospital, 1 into an Army Hospital and the other to the Cippenham Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths.

1 case of Typhoid Fever was admitted into Old Windsor Emergency Hospital.

During the year, the following specimens from the Eton Rural District were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory:—

For Diphtheria Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	112
For Hæmolytic Streptococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
For Vincent's Angina	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
Blood for Widal reaction	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Blood Sedimentation Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Blood Counts	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
Fæces for Typhoid, Dysentery, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
For Gonococci	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Water samples	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Milk samples:-					
Plate Count	.....	.....	.....	.....	6

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Cleansing.

Labour problems and absenteeism due to sickness and accidents has made the maintenance of an efficient scavenging service difficult throughout the year.

In spite of this about 75% of the area received a fortnightly service of refuse and salvage collection in the district served by direct labour. This standard was not maintained in areas served by contractors owing to labour shortage.

The number of cesspool emptyings increased from 7,350 to 8,396 in the area served by the Council, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to find sites for cesspool contents disposal. The parishes of Iver, Wexham and Fulmer continue to be dealt with by a contractor.

The Council now owns 18 vehicles. A new refuse collection vehicle was acquired in April, 1945, and the number of houses visited has increased by 656. Difficulties were experienced due to inadequate garaging of Council vehicles, but towards the end of the year Ministry of Health sanction was obtained for the erection of a garage and it is hoped that more satisfactory arrangements will be possible in the future.

Salvage collection continues, but in common with the rest of the country there is a considerable fall in weight of salvage collected compared with 1944.

Civil Building Control.

The Minister of Works in pursuance of Defence Regulation 56A made an Order (S.R. & O 1945. No. 105) which brought the Council's district into the Region wherein the restriction of building work to cost over £10 was imposed. From the 5th February, 1945 (the date of commencement of the Order), the Senior Sanitary Inspector was authorised by the Council to deal with the work of receiving applications and the granting or refusing of licences within the limits of £10 to £100.

This arrangement continued until August when the wider application of the Order made it necessary for the Senior Sanitary Inspector to ask to be relieved of this duty. The Surveyor of the Council was therefore instructed to take over but the Sanitary Inspectors were asked to co-operate so far as possible.

During the period February to August some 421 applications for licences were received and apart from those in respect of costs of over £100 which were referred direct to the Ministry of Works, Reading, inspections of the premises were carried out in every instance. Certificates of Essentiality were also issued in appropriate cases where the cost of the work exceeded £100, and the Ministry of Works, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Food were advised, on request, of the necessity for work in other cases where Certificates of Essentiality were not applicable.

Moveable Dwellings.

The shortage of housing generally throughout the country has resulted in many persons taking up occupation of moveable dwellings particularly in this District, possibly because of its proximity to London, the River Thames and to industrial areas such as Slough. There has also been an increase of the pre-war permanent van dwellers, i.e., gypsies, and the constant arrival and movement of this particular type, many of whom are engaged on agricultural work, requires continual attention.

Application for licences as provided by the Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269, have been received and dealt with as follows:-

- (a) To station, erect or use moveable dwellings (Individual) :
Received: 12; Granted: 8; Refused: 4.
- (b) To use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings:
Received: 3; Granted: 1; Refused 2.

Metropolitan Water Board.

The proposals of the Metropolitan Water Board to construct new reservoirs in the Council's district at Datchet and Wraysbury-Horton have necessitated further surveys and checking of the various persons and of their occupations. These were carried out in support of the Council's action to safeguard the re-housing of the so-called "working class" persons likely to be displaced.

Ice Cream, etc.

Applications for Registration in connection with premises to be used for the Sale and/or Manufacture of Ice Cream and Preserved Foods; for premises as Dairies (Cowsheds, etc.) have been received and more will no doubt be received in respect of the first mentioned as war-time restrictions are relaxed.

Public Health Acts.

Thirteen Statutory notices for the abatement of nuisances, overflowing cesspools, dustbins, etc., were served during the year.

Housing Acts.

Two Statutory notices were served on the owner and occupier of a house where overcrowding existed in circumstances somewhat different from the general unsatisfactory condition. The overcrowding was abated following court proceedings by the owner.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

During the year the Rodent Officer-Operative continued with rat and mice destruction in accordance with the methods prescribed by the Ministry of Food and which, from personal observations and the receipt of several letters from ratepayers thanking the Council for action taken, appear to be the most satisfactory.

The following is a short summary:-

Surveys and Inspections	1555
Baitings	1276
Gassing	847
Trapping	158
Dead rats found after poisoning	1124*
Dead mice found after poisoning	114

* Calculating 7 dead for each one found gives 7868.

No mortality figures can be estimated in respect of gassing.

Details of Meat Inspection - 1945.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	1153	365	834	3406	193
Number examined	1153	366	834	3406	193
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	1	5	29
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	124	63	1	17	15
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	18.4	18.0	.24	.65	22.3
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	11	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	166	105	1	—	3
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tubercu- losis	14.6	34.4	.24	—	1.6

Other Foods Condemned - 1945.

Imported and Canned Meats.

- 1 tin of Sheep's tongue.
- 18 tins of Luncheon Meat (17 lbs.).
- 8 tins of Ox tongues ($61\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).
- 4 tins of Chopped Ham and Pork (15 lbs.).
- 17 tins of Casseroled Meat.
- 2 tins of Pork Sausage Meat (3 lbs.).
- 160 tins of Canned Beef ($310\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).
- 78 lbs. of Imported Beef.
- 1 tin of Corned Mutton (6 lbs.).

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- *79 lbs. of bacon.
 - 61 tins of fish (assorted).
 - 20 tins of Peas.
 - 22 tins of Condensed Milk.
 - 137 tins of Evaporated Milk.
 - 167 packets of assorted Pudding Mixtures.
 - 10 tins of Beans.
 - 1 tin of Prepared Meal.
 - 140 lbs. of Dates.
 - 1 lb. Tea.
 - 6 tins of Orange Marmalade.
 - 91 stone of Wet Fish.
 - 21 lbs. of Pork Sausages.
 - 24 tins of Soup (assorted).
 - $16\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of Biscuits.
 - 69 lbs. of Rabbit Carcases (skinned).
 - 1 tin of Vegetables in Gravy.
 - 10 tins of Beans in Gravy.
 - 80 Eggs.
 - 1 case of Oranges.
 - *4 lbs. Butter.
 - 4 jars of Pickles.
 - 1 tin of Fish Paste.
 - 3 tins of Minced Beef Loaf ($2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).
 - 3 tins of Grapefruit Marmalade (6 lbs.).
 - 1 tin of Melon and Ginger Jam (2 lbs.).
 - 1 tin of Apricot Preserve (6 lbs.).
 - 58 tins of Egg Substitute.
 - 2 packets of Breakfast Food.
 - 16 tins of Salad Dressing Powder.
 - 16 packets of Dessert Mould.
 - 28 tins of Pork and Beans in Tomato.
 - 28 tins of Apple Rings.

* Returned to manufacturers through trade channels.

Water Supplies.

The five Water Companies providing main supplies in the District are:-

Amersham, Beaconsfield and District Water Company.

Burnham, Dorney and Hitcham Waterworks Company.

Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Slough Municipal Corporation.

South West Suburban Water Company.

The water supplied by these companies has been subject to routine examination and has invariably been found to be of good quality.

With the exception of Wraysbury Parish, the majority of houses in the district receive a main water supply. A few isolated cottages and houses in each district remain on well water. These number 154 in an estimated number of 9,485 houses—a percentage of 1.6 without main supply.

Wraysbury, with an estimated number of 900 houses has 522 without main supply, a percentage of 58%.

28 specimens of well water were examined, of which 7 were found to be unsatisfactory. The following actions were taken—in 4 cases a main supply was provided, in 2 cases the wells were repaired and cleaned, and in 1 case the pump was removed.

Burnham Beeches Swimming Pool water was examined and found to be satisfactory.

J. W. WEBB,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

